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Attorney Docket: 381NT/49487
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: KENJI HORII ET AL.
Serial No.: 09/735,548 Group Art Unit: 1725
Filed: DECEMBER 14, 2000 Examiner: Len TRAN
Title: METHOD OF BONDING METAL PLATES, APPARATUS
THEREFOR AND HOT STRIP MILL

AMENDMENT

Box Non-Fee Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In response to the Patent Office Action dated August 27, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND Claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A method of bonding metal plates comprising steps
- of:
- applying a first and second shearing blades of specific shape onto respective both sides of overlapped metal plates and then, while shearing the metal plates by moving the first and second shearing blades so as to sandwich the overlapped portion; and